

Fire Prevention

Fire Prevention is a function of many fire departments. The goal of fire prevention is to educate the public to take precautions to prevent fires, and be educated about surviving them. It is a proactive method of reducing emergencies and the damage caused by them. Fire Prevention is the purest form of fire suppression.

Management of Fire Inspection Services

Management

With the New Year comes restructuring and revitalization of the Fire Department's Fire Prevention Bureau. Chief Fruetel has returned to the department with over thirty years of knowledge and experience in the fire service, along with a proven track record in successfully managing a division of the City of Minneapolis' Emergency Preparedness department. Fire Marshal Ebner brings over twenty one years of fire service experience and knowledge to the table. He also has over thirteen years of business experience in the private sector managing large numbers of employees working on multiple complex projects. FM Ebner has been in charge of planning, directing, and coordinating activities of designated projects to ensure that goals and objectives of projects are accomplished safely and on time and within the prescribed budget through effective business and leadership.



The New and Improved Fire Inspection Services

The most effective Fire Inspection Services would be under the direction of the Fire Marshal. This formatted structure of Fire Inspection Services inspectors would meet all aspects of the Minnesota State Fire Code.

Some of the other duties performed are plan review for all projects to ensure safety and proper procedures to complete projects; procurement of labor, equipment, materials and subcontractors for projects; reviewing project proposals or plans to determine time frame, funding limitations, procedures for accomplishing project, staffing requirements, and allotment of available resources to various phases of project; writing and implementing business plans that identify, measure and manage key indicators for the plan's success.

The Minneapolis Fire Department has aggressively trained all fire company officers in inspections for residential and commercial properties. The Fire Marshal along with the Minneapolis Fire Department Training division has armed these valuable employees with the skills and tools needed to be successful in their duties. Fire crews will conduct building familiarizations not only addresses life safety hazards, but also continues to build partnerships within the communities in the City of Minneapolis through this program.

We recognize the value of setting goals, developing priorities for our objectives, and measuring departmental effectiveness in saving lives and property through fire prevention. Through writing this plan, it is our intention to bring clarity and greater unification to the Department. It will communicate to the citizens our core values and guiding principles. Furthermore, the plan will clearly explain our objectives and goals and how we plan to accomplish them.



<u>Fire Prevention – 2013 Services</u>

Housing Inspections and Rental Licenses

Rental Licenses are secured with an annual payment from the property owner. The services provided to the property owners are an on-site inspection at a minimum of one time during an eight year rotation. Fire Inspection Services (FIS) identifies and corrects fire code violations that could pose a hazard to the safety of both firefighting personnel and the public. We identify and correct Housing Maintenance Code violations that insure the quality and livability of the City's rental housing stock.

The basic principles of a residential inspection include:

- ✓ Preparation
- ✓ Conducting the inspection
- ✓ Recording the inspection
- ✓ Re-inspection

Plan Review and Fire Detection

Plan Review is for Automatic Fire Sprinkler Systems and Fire Alarm Systems that are reviewed by Fire Inspection Services. Sprinkler plans that are submitted to FIS will be reviewed for compliance with the requirements contained in NFPA-13 and the Plan Review Policies.

Permits for Special Events

Permits for Special Events are required for venues that are not a main stream event and that have some element of an open flame or pyrotechnics. An inspector reviews the permit and the sight prior to issuing the permit. The other requirement of the permit is to have a professional *fire* watch on the premises which is supplied for by the Fire Department or fire code official for an additional fee.

*(See Fire Watch).



Permits for Fire Alarm Systems

An annual permit and inspection is required of all fire alarm systems. Permit, fees and pertinent paperwork is submitted to the FIS after completion of the inspection of the system by a private vendor hired by the building owner/manager. The system is also periodically checked during commercial/residential inspections that are conducted by the Fire Department and its prevention division. Any faulty alarms triggered by this system will automatically dispatch Fire Department crews to the scene. This in turn will require personnel from FIS to follow up with the building owner to verify the system is functional and accurate.

Commercial Hood

Permits and appropriate fees are required for all commercial hood and exhaust systems in need of any commercial hood and exhaust cleaning services. This paperwork, fees and photo-log of completed abatement is submitted to FIS, based on authority granted to it by the Minnesota State Fire Code, Section 104.3 and state amendment 101.6. The permit requirement imposed by this section shall be required every six (6) months, or upon system activation and apply to all commercial cooking and food service establishments utilizing Type-I and Type-II exhaust hoods.

Hazardous Materials Permits

Every building or structure, facility or portion thereof that stores, uses or handles hazardous materials in quantities that exceed the allowable amounts designated in the Minnesota State Fire Code must have an annual renewable permit for the storage, use and handling of hazardous materials issued by the fire marshal posted in a conspicuous place on the premises. The permit and fees are submitted to FIS. An inspector then does an on-site inspection of the facility to verify compliance with state, county and city ordinances.

Residential Care Inspections

This service is for inspections of Day Care operations in residential dwellings in response to a request for day care or foster care licensure. The dwelling is required to meet the applicable requirements for dwellings in addition to specific day care/foster care requirements. Permits and applicable fees are submitted to FIS. An inspector will then review the paperwork and complete an on-site inspection prior to issuance of license by the state.



Permits for Fire Suppression Systems

An annual permit and inspection is required of all fire suppression systems. Permit, fees and pertinent paperwork is submitted to FIS after completion of the inspection of the system by a private vendor hired by the building owner/manager. The system is also periodically checked during commercial/residential inspections that are conducted by FIS. Any faulty alarms triggered by this system will automatically dispatch Fire Department crews to the scene. This in turn will require personnel from Fire Inspection Services to follow up with the building owner to verify the system is functional and accurate.

Commercial Inspections

The services provided to the commercial property owners are an on-site inspection at a minimum of one time during an eight year rotation cycle. This service is included in the building owner's annual Commercial Registration fee. Inspections of commercial property are an important aspect of firefighting. Commercial inspections provide FIS with the opportunity to interact with and educate the public on fire safety, identify and correct fire code violations that could pose a hazard to the safety of both firefighting personnel and the public and familiarize personnel with and preplan the building for possible emergencies.

The basic principles of a commercial inspection include:

- ✓ Preparation
- ✓ Conducting the inspection
- ✓ Recording the inspection
- ✓ Re-inspection

Fire Watch

A fire watch provides temporary fire safety where there are potential hazards, such as during hot work operations or when fire protection systems are out of service. A fire watch is not simply to watch for a fire but also to prevent fire by identifying and controlling fire hazards, such as the separation of combustibles from areas where welding is to occur. A fire watch also provides a method of notifying the fire department if a fire should occur.

When, in the opinion of the fire code official, it is essential for public safety in a place of assembly or any other place where people congregate, because of the number of persons, or the nature of the performance, exhibition, display, contest or activity, the owner, agent or lessee shall provide one or more fire watch personnel, as required and approved, to remain on duty during the times such places are open to the public, or when such activity is being conducted. A service charge is a fee based on time and the number of personnel needed for the watch.



School Fire Drills

Minneapolis Public Schools Policy states drills will be conducted without warning to the general staff and student body, and at various times and under all circumstances, including recess, lunch or assembly periods. In cooperation with the Minneapolis Public School system, we shall make advance arrangements with the school as to the day and approximate time of our bi-annual fire drills. This should be done with the knowledge that we have many duties that may change the pre-arranged plans, and we may have to conduct the fire drill unannounced.

These drills are conducted to allow teachers and students to plan their escape in advance and to address students' questions, such as what to do if they encounter smoke on their way out and where to assemble outside. The Minneapolis Fire Department and Fire Inspection Services actively and aggressively administer school fire drills twice per year for the safety of the children and staff at theses educational facilities.

Education

One of the fundamental missions of the Fire Department and FIS is to protect the lives and property of Minneapolis City residents and visitors through fire safety education programs. Our strategy to reduce fire deaths and injuries is to focus on prevention by identifying and rectifying unsafe behaviors.

Fire safety educators conduct training, provide lectures and fire safety demonstrations on topics such as 9-1-1 awareness, burn and injury prevention, carbon monoxide safety, using fire extinguishers, fire drills, safe fire evacuation, fire prevention, holiday fire safety, juvenile fire-setting, kitchen fire safety, natural disaster preparation, senior citizen fire safety, and the proper use and installation of smoke alarms. These messages are delivered in elementary schools, at tenant association meetings and at community and senior centers free of charge. We also work directly with the media to deliver our safety message to a large number of viewers.

The fire safety education programs target the high risk populations of those most vulnerable to fire, young children and older adults.